

## Message Text

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44

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /042 W  
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P 051205Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5747

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1240

FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, IC

SUBJECT: HICKORY WIND STRING BAND

REF: STATE 257076

1. THE HICKORY WIND, WHICH ARRIVED IN ICELAND SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH A FORCE 9 GALE, PLAYED THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 2 TO AN AUDIENCE OF SOME 300 PERSONS AT THE TONABIO, REYKJAVIK CENTER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. THEIR PERFORMANCE OF SOME THREE HOURS, WITH TWO BREAKS, WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT BOTH THE BLUEGRASS STYLE OF THEIR MUSIC AND THE GROUP'S RELAXED AND GOOD-HUMORED APPEARANCE APPEALED GREATLY TO THE AUDIENCE OF PREDOMINANTLY YOUNG PEOPLE.

2. WE FOUND THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP CALM AND EASY TO WORK WITH, DESPITE THIS BEING THEIR FIRST TRIP ABROAD. THEY ARE PROFESSIONAL IN APPROACH AND PERSONABLE AND SHOULD DO WELL IN MEETING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THEIR TOUR. BEST EVIDENCE OF THEIR MATURITY WAS THEIR CALM

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REACTION OF FINDING ON ARRIVAL HERE AT 7 AM SUNDAY

THAT ICELANDIC AIRLINES HAD LEFT MOST OF THEIR INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT IN NEW YORK. THE GROUP PERFORMED SUNDAY EVENING MOSTLY WITH INSTRUMENTS BORROWED THAT DAY BY THE LOCAL IMPRESARIS, WHO HOWEVER WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE A DULCIMER IN REYKJAVIK. THE MISSING EQUIPMENT ARRIVED MONDAY, WITH AN ASSIST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS CENTER AND CU.

3. OUR MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE VISIT WAS THAT ICELANDIC TELEVISION ADVISED AT THE LAST MINUTE THAT THE PLANNED VIDEOTAPING SESSION FOR A PROGRAM FOR LATER TELECAST WAS SCRUBBED BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS. THE IMPRESARIO, WHO ALSO WAS ARRANGING THE TV APPEARANCE, INCREASED THE GROUP'S FEE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2 CONCERT FROM \$375 TO \$600 TO COMPENSATE THEM FOR THE LOSS OF THE TELEVISION APPEARANCE. THE GROUP WAS ROUNDING OUT ITS PROGRAM HERE WITH TWO CONCERTS AT THE NATO BASE (WITH FEES PAID FROM ENTERTAINMENT FUNDS AT THE BASE). THE USIS REYKJAVIK COST WAS \$472.50 FOR PER DIEM.

5. FOR OTHER POSTS: HICKORY WIND'S INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT WEIGH ABOUT 600 POUNDS. THEY WERE SHIPPED HERE AS AIR FREIGHT; NEW YORK EXPERIENCE INDICATES RISKINESS OF THIS PROCEDURE. POSTS ON ITINERY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER MAKING EARLY ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIR FREIGHT SHIPMENT AND ADVISE NEXT POST OF ARRANGMENTS.

6. FOR MADRID: HICKORY WIND INSTRUMENTS AND SOUND EQUIPMENT WILL BE SHIPPED RESERVED AIR FREIGHT NOV 5 VIA LOFTLEIDUR FLIGHT 200 TO LUXEMBOURG AIR LUX FLIGHT 307 TO FRANKFURT, AND IBERIAN FLIGHT 681 TO MADRID. POST SUGGESTS THAT GROUP BE MET.  
IRVING

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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